

REMARKS

Claims 21-25, and 45-58 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Claim 21 is amended and Claims 45-58 are added. Applicant respectfully requests examination of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

I. In the Written Description

The written description is amended to indicate that the above-identified application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/548,163. This amendment inserts no new matter.

II. Claimed Invention

Claims 21 is directed to, *inter alia*, a method for removing a floor covering adhesive material that is attached to a surface comprising applying a composition to the floor covering adhesive material such that the composition contacts the adhesive material and wets and penetrates the adhesive material to break down adhesive bonds; removing the floor covering adhesive material from the surface, wherein the composition comprises an alkaline amine reagent coupled with a non-ionic wetting agent; wherein the composition comprises an alkaline amine reagent coupled with a non-ionic wetting agent.

United States Patent No. 3,998,654 issued to Falaas et al (hereinafter "*Falaas*") is directed to a method for removing a pressure-sensitive adhesive, such as labels, tapes, and decorative sheets or films, comprising adding a composition including a swelling agent and a detackifying agent selected from polyvalent metal-containing compounds in reactive form and

strongly basic amines, such as ethylene diamine.

Page 1095 of the Condensed Chemical Dictionary, Tenth Edition (hereafter “Condensed Chemical Dictionary”) teaches that alcohols are known as wetting agents.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of *Falaas* and Condensed Chemical Dictionary fails to teach or suggest Applicant’s claimed invention. *Falaas* is directed to the removal of pressure-sensitive adhesives, such as labels, tapes, and decorative sheets or films, not floor covering adhesive materials. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to a method of removing tape when trying to develop a method for removing a flooring covering adhesive material.

Similarly, Condensed Chemical Dictionary fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Falaas*. Condensed Chemical Dictionary simply teaches using alcohols as wetting agents. Condensed Chemical Dictionary fails to teach or suggest the benefits of using an alkaline amine reagent coupled with a non-ionic wetting agent to remove floor covering adhesive materials. Accordingly, because the combination of *Falaas* and Condensed Chemical Dictionary fails to teach or suggest the Applicant’s claim invention, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 21 is allowable over the art of record. Furthermore, since Claims 22-25 and 45-58 recite additional claim features and depend from Claim 21, these claims are also allowable over the art of record.

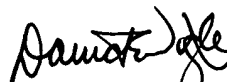
III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons given above, Applicant submits that Claims 21-25 and 45-58 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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